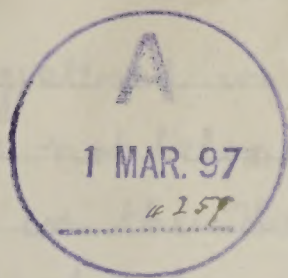


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(1896)



Fawley
Petersfield
11th February 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Petersfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen.

The population of the Urban District of Petersfield which was estimated to be 2900 in the middle of 1895 has increased considerably since that time, the increase being partly due to the number of work people engaged in the Stick Factory of Mr Houghton-Brown, a large number of whom are strangers to the town, and partly to the immigration of van people, who have settled in the Sandy Lane, The Heath. The number of houses which was 589 in 1895 rose to 605 in the following year. An average of five inhabitants to a house would give a population of 3025 to which should be added about 40 living in vans or tents, making a total of 3065, which is probably below the mark.

During the year 1896, 77 births and 63 deaths were registered in the District. The births were equivalent to an annual birth rate of 25 per thousand, the average birth rate of England and Wales for the last fifty years being 33.8 per thousand. The birth rate for England and Wales for the past year was 29.7 per thousand of the population, being lower than in any other year on record excepting 1894.

The deaths, if we include all that occurred in the District, were equivalent to an annual death rate of 20.5 per thousand, but of the 63

The first of these is the fact that the
 population of the country has increased
 from 1,000,000 in 1800 to 10,000,000
 in 1880. This increase has been
 due to a number of causes, the most
 important of which are the following:
 1. The discovery of gold in California
 in 1848, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 2. The discovery of gold in Colorado
 in 1859, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 3. The discovery of gold in Nevada
 in 1859, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 4. The discovery of gold in Idaho
 in 1860, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 5. The discovery of gold in Montana
 in 1862, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 6. The discovery of gold in Wyoming
 in 1869, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 7. The discovery of gold in Utah
 in 1871, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 8. The discovery of gold in Arizona
 in 1876, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 9. The discovery of gold in New Mexico
 in 1878, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.
 10. The discovery of gold in Texas
 in 1880, which led to a great influx
 of immigrants from all over the world.

deaths registered in the District, eleven were those of persons not belonging thereto. Seven of these occurred in the Union Infirmary, three in the Cottage Hospital and one was that of a visitor. Deducting these eleven we get a corrected death rate of 16.9 per thousand, the corrected death rates for 1893, 1894 and 1895 being 14.3, 13.7 and 12 respectively.

Of the 63 deaths registered in the District 22 occurred in persons over 70 years of age, 8 of whom had exceeded 80 years, while two had attained the ages of 93 and 95.

The deaths under one year of age, nine in number, were equivalent to a death rate of 128 per thousand births registered. In England and Wales the corresponding rate of mortality is 148. The infant death rate is too high. As was pointed out in a previous report, infant mortality is largely dependent on improper feeding, Diarrhoea, wasting and convulsions being in the majority of cases, due to errors in this respect. Five out of the nine deaths that occurred under one year of age were attributed to one or other of these causes. Countries in which infants are breast fed, exhibit a striking contrast to those in which they are, as a rule brought up "by hand", the infant mortality in Norway for instance, where the former condition prevails, is only one third of that in Bavaria, where infants are brought up on sopped bread and farinaceous foods. It cannot be too strongly insisted on that milk is the only proper food for infants, and that when the mother's milk is not obtainable, cow's milk properly diluted and previously boiled, should

Deaths registered in the district, eleven were those of persons not belonging to the district. Seven of these occurred in the three following, three in the latter hospital and one was that of a visitor. Regarding these eleven we get a corrected death rate of 1.4 per thousand, the corrected death rate for 1876, 1877 and 1878 being 1.5, 1.7 and 1.5 respectively.

Of the 50 deaths registered in the district 22 occurred in persons over 20 years of age, 8 of whom had exceeded 80 years, while two had attained the age of 95 and 20.

The deaths under 20 years of age, nineteen in number, were equivalent to a death rate of 1.2 per thousand but the registered in hospital and water the corresponding rate of mortality is 1.7. The

infant death rate is high. The most frequent cause of infant death, infant mortality is largely dependent on improper feeding. In children

working and convalescing in the majority of cases, due to causes within the hospital give out of the true deaths that occurred under 20 years of age were attributed to one or other of these causes

however in which infants are least fed, which striking contrast to those in which they are, as rules brought up "by hand", the infant

mortality in the district for instance, where the former condition prevails, is only one third of that in the latter, where infants are brought up

on artificial food and formulae. It cannot be too strongly insisted on that with the only proper food for infants, and that when the mother milk is not obtainable, cow's milk

properly sterilized and frequently boiled, should

be substituted for it

It has long been known that Typhoid, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria may be, and frequently are, conveyed by milk, and it has now been almost proved that Tuberculosis or Consumption may be contracted by drinking the milk of cows suffering from this disease.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the effect of food derived from Tuberculous animals states it as probable that an appreciable part of the Tuberculosis that affects Man is obtained through his food, and again that Tuberculous matter in milk is exceptionally active in its operation upon animals fed either with the milk or with dairy produce derived from it. A Dairy Company in a neighbouring town sterilises the whole of the milk and cream brought into its factory by raising it to 175° Fahrenheit before distributing it to its customers. This temperature is sufficient to destroy disease germs without materially impairing the flavour of the milk.

The general adoption of this plan by dairymen would probably materially reduce the death rate from Zymotic disease and Consumption (which last disease has claimed over 60,000 victims annually in the last thirty years). In the meanwhile it would be wise for all to take the precaution of drinking only boiled milk.

Four out of the thirteen deaths that occurred under five years of age were those of illegitimate children.

Three deaths were attributed to lung diseases following Influenza and one to Measles. Measles and whooping cough appeared in the

be substituted for it

It has been known that infants, breast
fed with milk, and it has been shown
that infants who are breast fed
suffer less from tuberculosis or pneumonia
than those who are not. This is due to the
fact that the milk of cows suffering
from tuberculosis

The report of the Royal Commission on
the effect of food derived from tuberculous animals
states it is probable that an appreciable part
of the tuberculosis that affects man is obtained
through his food, and again that tuberculous
milk is much more infectious than the milk of
other animals fed with the milk of tuberculous
cows. It is derived from a tuberculous cow
in a very infectious form. The whole of the
milk is contaminated with the bacteria of
tuberculosis before it is put into the
bottles. The temperature is sufficient to
destroy the bacteria without materially
affecting the flavor of the milk.

The general adoption of this plan by
the government would probably materially reduce
the death rate from tuberculosis and pneumonia
which last disease has caused over 60,000 deaths
annually in the last thirty years. In the
meantime it would be well for all to take the
precaution of drinking only boiled milk.
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Three deaths were attributed to lung
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District in the latter part of 1896 and became so prevalent that in the early part of this year, it was deemed advisable to close the Infant School of this Town, 116 out of a total number of 196 on the books being absent from school from one or other of these diseases. The prevalence of Measles and whooping cough and the large mortality (about 30,000 die annually ^{from} of these two diseases in England and Wales) is in a great measure owing to the popular belief that every person must contract them at some period of life and that therefore it is of little or no use to take any precautionary measures when either of these diseases is epidemic. The consequence is that as a rule they spread unchecked and only subside when all susceptible subjects have been attacked. Surely this is a reproach to sanitary science; the first step towards amending this state of things would be to include these diseases, or at least Measles under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. In Birkenhead compulsory notification of Measles has been in operation since 1881 with good results and it has been pointed out that even when the spread of this disease has ^{not} been checked, exposure of the patients to chills is prevented in many cases, with the result that the mortality is diminished.

In the last annual report your attention was drawn to the agency of schools in favouring the spread of Diphtheria. Three weeks after the date of that report, three cases of this disease were notified on the same day all of which were boys in the 1st or 2nd Standard.

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must contract them at some period of life and
that therefore it is of little or no use to take
any precautions against them when either of
these diseases is epidemic. The consequences
that would result if they spread unchecked and
only, perhaps, when all susceptible subjects are
attacked. But why this is a mistake at the
present time, the first step towards a remedy
this state of things would be to include
these diseases, or at least measles, under
the Infectious Diseases Act. But
the kind of confusion and frustration of thought
has been in operation since 1881 with good
results and it has been pointed out that even
when the spread of this disease has been
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prevented in many cases, with the result that
the mortality is diminished.
In the last annual report your
attention was drawn to the danger of a
misleading the spread of diphtheria. There
was after the date of that report, the cases
of this disease were notified on the same day
which were done in the 1st or 2nd week and

at the Board School. The names of all boys absent from School were obtained and enquiries made into the cause of their absence. Nineteen houses were visited with the result that Diphtheria was discovered in a boy whose three sisters were at the time attending the Board School. In another house there was a case of suspicious sore throat and all the children of these two families were directed to be kept from School. In visiting the cottages in the Borough in which there were children absent from school, a closet was found in a filthy condition, the cistern was worn out and discharged no water, the soil pipe was stopped, and the contents overflowed and soaked into the ~~the~~ ground. This condition I was informed had existed for two months. In the adjoining cottage two fatal cases of Diphtheria occurred towards the end of 1895.

In all ten cases of Diphtheria have been notified in the past year, three of these occurred in the Gasworks. In 1894 a case of Erysipelas followed by Puerperal fever occurred in the same house, which with the surrounding premises was found to be in a very insanitary condition. A broken stack pipe had caused considerable dampness of the subsoil, a condition which is considered by some to be especially favourable to the development of Diphtheria. The Managing Director of the Gasworks was communicated with and he at once acceded to the proposal that the house should be thoroughly overhauled when the condition of the patients allowed it. This has since been done and the premises are now in a

at the second debate the names of all boys
absent from school were obtained and compared
with the names of their absence register.
There were results with the result that
difficulties were discovered in a boy whose name
was not at the time attending the school.
In another case there was a case of
suspension as well as all the children of
these two families were directed to be kept from
school. In visiting the hospital in the
morning in which there were children about
from school, a class was found in a filthy
condition, the children were sent out and
discharged as well, the hot pipe was stopped, and
the system overhauled and worked into the
ground. The condition was improved
and resulted for the better. In the afternoon
there was a case of difficulty occurred
towards the end of 1892.
In all the cases of difficulty there have been
verified in the past year, three of these occurred in
the morning. In 1894 a case of difficulty followed
by several fever occurred in the same house,
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found to be in a very unsanitary condition. A
broken hot pipe had caused considerable
depression of the subject, a condition which is
considered by some to be especially favorable
to the development of difficulty. The morning
doctor of the house was communicated with
and it was agreed to the fact that
the house should be thoroughly overhauled when
the condition of the patient allowed. It has
since been done and the premises are now in a

satisfactory condition.

In May an examination of the water supply of the houses at the Bauseway was undertaken by direction of the Council. Of the sixteen houses visited two new cottages had no water supply whatever, one had a good well probably fed by a spring, the remaining thirteen were dependent on shallow wells containing very little water and that generally unfit for drinking. It was recommended that the public water supply should be carried to the Bauseway and this has since been done.

The water supplied to the District during the past year has been notably better than formerly, the improvement being probably due to the fact that the Reservoir has generally been kept full, and that therefore there has been more time allowed for subsidence of suspended matter. In April the Council decided to construct a second Reservoir, to be used alternately with the present one, and also to adopt the expedient of a floating arm, so as to draw from the surface of the water, instead of (as at present) from the bottom of the Reservoir. The Council is still awaiting the sanction of the Local Government Board to carry out this much needed work. When this has been completed, it may reasonably be expected that the town water will be not only wholesome, but more palatable and inviting than it has been in the past. 82 houses still depend on shallow wells for their water supply.

In more than one of their annual reports the Medical Officers of Health of the Rural and Urban District Councils have urged the importance of providing an Infectious Hospital. During the past year the two Councils, after

consulting together, decided to provide such a Hospital to meet the requirements of the combined Districts and a joint Committee has been appointed to give effect to this decision. During the present year therefore we may hope to be furnished with the means of isolating fresh cases of infectious diseases and thus prevent them assuming epidemic proportions. A disinfecting chamber should be attached to the Hospital.

The condition of the Square is still far from satisfactory. If the Market continues to be held there it is most desirable that the whole of the area of the Square should be asphalted or concreted, so that it may be possible to wash it thoroughly clean after the close of the Market.

I subjoin a summary of proceedings taken during the past year with tabular statements of sickness and mortality:

I have the honour to be
Gentlemen

Yours obedient servant

(80) A. W. Leachman

M.D. 10. P.H. M.O.H.

The first of these is the fact that the
 government has been unable to raise
 the necessary funds to carry out its
 policy of non-interference. This is
 due to the fact that the government
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 out its policy of non-interference.

Summary of Proceedings
taken by the Medical Officer of
Health of the Petersfield Urban
District during the year 1896

January 12th Stick Factory of Mr. Houghton - Brown
inspected and found in good order. Latrines
and Water closets satisfactory. About 80 hands
employed.

January 12th Rag Factory near the Railway Station
inspected. 11 girls and women are employed
in it. The arrangements were satisfactory.

March 10th In consequence of the notification of 3 cases
of Diphtheria on the same day the Schools
were visited and nineteen houses in which
were children absent from school. Details
in body of report.

May 20th Well at Farfield's examined and water
analysed. Letter to Board on the subject.

May 24th All the houses at the Bauseway visited
Report made on Water Supply.

June 23rd Buildings in occupation of Mr. Hann
and Messrs Bonsted for which licences for
slaughtering had been applied for, visited.
Report sent to Board.

June 12th Case of Diphtheria in the Spain notified
children ordered to be kept from school
and premises to be disinfected.

Summary of Proceedings
taken by the Medical Officer of
Health of the District of
London during the year 1891

January 1st. At the meeting of the Sanitary
Committee and the Local Board of Health
and the Local Board of Health of the
District of London.

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March 10th. In consequence of the
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May 20th. Well at the meeting of the
Sanitary Committee and the Local Board of Health
and the Local Board of Health of the
District of London.

May 24th. At the meeting of the Sanitary
Committee and the Local Board of Health
and the Local Board of Health of the
District of London.

June 23rd. At the meeting of the Sanitary
Committee and the Local Board of Health
and the Local Board of Health of the
District of London.

June 23rd. At the meeting of the Sanitary
Committee and the Local Board of Health
and the Local Board of Health of the
District of London.

July 23rd Case of Diphtheria on Ramshell notified
All the six cottages inspected. Report sent to
Board.

August 15th Sewage farm visited in conjunction
with Mr. Heates. Report sent to Board.

October 26th Three cases of Diphtheria reported at
Gasworks. Premises inspected. Subject
dealt with in body of report.

(Sd) A.W. Leachman.
M.O.H.

to the 1st of the month of the year 1857
All the rest of the year 1857
to the 1st of the month of the year 1858

to the 1st of the month of the year 1859
to the 1st of the month of the year 1860

to the 1st of the month of the year 1861
to the 1st of the month of the year 1862
to the 1st of the month of the year 1863

to the 1st of the month of the year 1864
to the 1st of the month of the year 1865

to the 1st of the month of the year 1866
to the 1st of the month of the year 1867